

Sketch

Howard slips out of his manacles



Simon Hoggart

THE HOME Secretary made a statement yesterday on the shackling of pregnant woman prisoners. The Tories are split on the issue.

There are those who support the idea that women in labour (or indeed women in New Labour) should be chained up. There are those, on the other hand, who think their new born babies should be manacled as well, just in case they try anything on.

congratulate each other. Given the polls, this may be connected with seppuku, Japanese ritual suicide.

James Gorman (C. Billericay) praised Ann Widdecombe, the hedge-shaped junior minister who originally got Mr Howard into this mess. "The honesty and openness she has displayed in much appreciated by the public - people who are in for crimes should be restrained," she announced, apparently having not listened to a word.

Blair defends his vision of stakeholder economy

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

TONY Blair yesterday rejected Tory claims that his vision of a stakeholder economy handed greater power to unions, corporations or interest groups.

The Labour leader told a 1,000-strong audience in Derby that he welcomed the way his vision of a stakeholder economy now lay at the heart of the political battlefield, but accused the Tories of clouding the debate.

of his slogan, arguing: "In the Tory economy, the no stake economy, they do not mind millions in dead and jobs with no career prospects. They promised the classless society. They delivered a two-nation Britain. The stakeholder economy is about making us one nation again."

Speaking at his first public meeting since his phrase came to grip political debate, he threw back Tory criticism

Table with 4 columns: Pay and conditions, Unionisation, Employee share ownership, Employee participation. Rows include IEP, John Lewis, Above average, Not in UK, Not comparable, Widespread, Average for industry, Deregulation at 7 sites in 2 years, Good, Full collective bargaining.



Alistair Darling: favoured cultural, not legal change

partners are the ones that succeed. In remarks likely to be contrasted with recent interpretations by union leaders, Mr Blair said: "The stakeholder economy is the key to preparing our people and business for vast economic and technological change. It is not about giving power to corporations or unions or interest groups. It is about giving power to the individual."

The shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, stressed that legal reforms may eventually play a role in bringing about a stakeholder economy, but they would not be the starting point.

Labour also moved to appropriate the Tory vision of an employee/shareholder economy, claiming the Tories had failed to spread shareholding among staff, despite legislation.

Mr Blair was supported by a speech from his City spokesman, Alistair Darling, who called for a big increase in employee share ownership.

He said it would offer both motivation and reward for success. It should no longer be regarded as an optional extra but the norm in a dynamic economy.

"The importance of securing participation by the workforce... is a major part of the philosophy of stakeholding," Mr Darling said.

stakeholding already, but more is required. What is needed is a change of culture." However, Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, responded by claiming the number of individual shareholders had increased from 3 million to 10 million under the Conservative government.

"Nine out of 10 employees in BT, British Gas and British Aerospace got shares in their companies. Labour, opposed these opportunities."

'Nazi' attack kills 10 in Germany

Three held as asylum-seekers goes up in flames

Ian Traynor in Bonn

AT LEAST 10 immigrants and asylum-seekers died in an inferno at their homes in the north German port of Lübeck yesterday in what appeared to be the worst racist in Germany since the war.

Three young neo-Nazis from eastern Germany were being questioned by police last night on suspicion of murder and arson. They were found within 100 yards of the blaze at 4am just after the fire started. Initially stopped by police, they were then brought in for questioning yesterday.

Police said the three males, aged 16 to 21, at least one of them a skinhead, were "well known to them" and that police had seen them driving to the scene before the blaze.



A woman cries in front of the asylum-seekers' home in Lübeck that was set on fire early yesterday morning, killing at least 10 people. Firemen (below) took four hours to control the blaze. PHOTOGRAPHS: CHRISTOF STACHE, MICHAEL PROBST

eral hundred Germans marched in an anti-racist demonstration in the nearby city of Hamburg.

A visibly shaken President Roman Herzog said that if the tragedy was confirmed to be caused by racist violence, he would raise the issue of increased police powers. "We will respect the rights of the perpetrators, but we also need to protect the human rights of the victims."

The speed with which the fire spread and the fact that it broke out in several points at once suggested an arson attack, police said, although they did not rule out a more innocent cause.

Winfried Tabarelli, the Lübeck CID chief, said it was too early to say whether the three Germans would be charged, but the state prosecutors in Schleswig-Holstein said they expected to open an investigation into murder and arson.

port best known for its marzipan and as the native town of the writer Thomas Mann, has suffered some of the most notorious racist attacks of the past few years.

On the Jewish Passover holiday two years ago, the town's synagogue was fire-bombed in the first attack on a Jewish house of prayer in modern times in Germany.

The synagogue was fire-bombed again last year and letter bombs believed to be sent by neo-Nazis mainly in Austria but also in Germany have also exploded in the port.

"It's disastrous that Lübeck is back in the headlines for this after two synagogue attacks," said Heide Simonis, Social Democrat prime minister of Schleswig-Holstein.



Firemen working to control the blaze at the asylum-seekers' home in Lübeck.

Portillo faces dilemma over strings on big Gulf arms deal

David Hirst in Beirut and David Fairhall in London

BILLED as the last great arms deal of the century, a purchase of \$4 billion worth of long-range strike aircraft by the United Arab Emirates is threatening to entangle Britain in unwelcome military commitments that could involve subjecting British troops to the laws of an Arab state.

In return for their lucrative contract - denoted in US currency at \$6 billion - the Emirates are demanding not only military support should they come under attack, but jurisdiction over foreign troops on their territory.

France, hoping to sell Mirage 2000 or Rafale aircraft, has pledged itself - should it get the contract - to come to the Gulf states' rescue with its 70,000-strong Rapid Reaction Force.

UAE officials insist that Britain match the pact which the UAE concluded with France in December, both as regards jurisdiction over foreign troops - on which France has met its demands - and the extent of treaty commitments to its defence.

Britain, currently developing a reaction force of its own, is close to concluding a memorandum of understanding on defence co-operation with the UAE. But the Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, who made a flying visit to Abu Dhabi just after Christmas, has balked at putting his troops under foreign law. On the contrary, he said he was seeking a formula "consistent with the tradition of armed forces being responsible to their own governments when they are in the service of those governments, even in another country."

The Defence Secretary also faces the dilemma of whether to offer the Emirates refurbished Tornados surplus to RAF requirements or - as British Aerospace and its industrial partners in Germany and Italy would prefer - newly built Tornados GPR aircraft. These BA's hopes would lead to later orders for the Eurofighter.

The UAE is said to want 80 strike aircraft, though whether it can make military use of such a force is doubtful. The United States is bidding for the same order with F-16s (which could also be refurbished surplus aircraft) or F-15Es.

First night

Reincarnation of Wildean insight

Michael Billington

An Ideal Husband

Theatre Royal, Haymarket

PETER HALL's superb production of Wilde's An Ideal Husband was first seen at the Globe in 1993. It is now revived, with the original cast virtually intact, a just return since it finds new layers of meaning in a play that has always been seen as an awkward mixture of melodrama and bons mots.

Hall's approach is to treat Wilde's melodrama as farce and his comedy as fundamentally serious. The basic plot concerns Mrs Cheveley's attempt to blackmail Sir Robert Chiltern, a rising politician, into endorsing a fraudulent Argentinian canal scheme because she knows that his own fortune was built on a piece of dishonest insider trading.

epigrams but as a man of extraordinary sanity and kindness. In Martin Shaw's impeccable performance, he reminds me of Baudelaire's observation that "dandyism is the peak of heroism in decadent ages."

Physically, even down to the buttonhole, Shaw is almost a reincarnation of Wilde himself; a fleshy figure who looks like a slightly debauched Adonis. But, under his always hidden eyes, is an awkward hand-on-hip stance. Shaw reveals Lord Goring's profound humanity. When he tells Lady Chiltern, who places her husband on an impossible pedestal, that "nobody is incapable of doing a foolish thing, nobody is incapable of doing a wrong thing," he reminds us that the art of the dandy is to hide his goodness and wisdom under a mask of affectation.

That the performance is the moral fulcrum on which everything else depends. And it is accompanied by fine work from Anna Carteret as the conniving Mrs Cheveley, from David Yelland as the hollow purveyor of public relations, Sir Robert Chiltern, and from Penny Downie, the main newcomer to the cast, as his wife.

Clarke bonus as lottery tax looks set to take £700m

David Hencke

KENNETH Clarke is emerging as the biggest winner from the National Lottery, with his revenue nearly doubling to £700 million a year from the game.

£104 million against an expected £80 million. The Treasury expects to make £700 million a year from the game. The lottery bonus is in sharp contrast to Mr Clarke's two other new taxes. Revenue from air passenger duty was \$84 million compared with an expected £105 million. Insurance premium tax brought in £117 million compared with an estimated £280 million.

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Handwritten text in Arabic script: مكتبة الامم

LIFE BUT NOT AS WE KNOW IT: Astronomers have found plausible abodes for our extraterrestrial neighbours, 35 light years from Earth

Planet Goldilocks a haven for life out there



Earthlings observe wildlife on Neptune in H. Wesso's Amazing Stories, published in 1929

'If there are creatures there they are going to be short and fat, not long and thin like us. They will be more like crabs than sheep and would move by scuttling sideways'

Tim Radford
Science Editor

US ASTRONOMERS have discovered two planets orbiting stars 35 light years away which could support the formation of life. Yesterday they christened one of them Goldilocks.

San Francisco State University and researcher Paul Butler, at a meeting of astronomers in San Antonio, Texas. "We have tentatively nicknamed one of these planets Goldilocks because Jeff said to me one night, this one is just right," Dr Butler said yesterday. "I said it must be Goldilocks."

Using similar techniques, astronomers had already

claimed two other planet discoveries in other constellations. One — orbiting a pulsar, or neutron star — could not be a home to any recognisable form of life. Another, 51 Pegasi, spotted in the Pegasus constellation last year by two Swiss astronomers and confirmed by Prof Marcy and Dr Butler a week later, was the first "solar system-type" planet to be detected, but was too massive, too close to its parent star and therefore, at 1,000C, too hot.

But 70 Vir and 47 UMa are another story. "The stars are very like the sun. The orbits are not unlike the Earth's orbit. One of them orbits at about half the Earth-sun distance. One of them orbits at about twice the Earth-sun distance. So they both are in a region where you would expect liquid water to be able to exist," Dr Butler said.

The real significance of the find may simply be that there are Earth-like planets out there. There is nothing special about Earth. If life can exist arise on one planet around one star in one galaxy, then it could happen on billions of such planets.

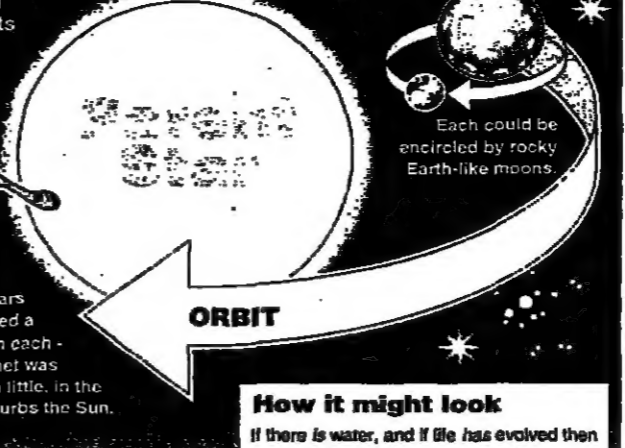
But until late last year, no one had detected any candidate planets. Now there are two. "After the discovery of 51 Peg everyone wondered if it was a freak, a one in a million observation," said Prof Marcy. "The answer is no. Planets aren't rare, after all."

Is there life out there?

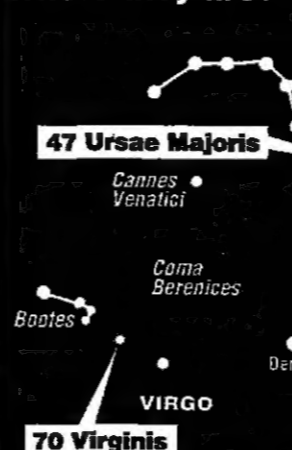
Two distant stars, 47 Ursae Majoris and 70 Virginis could have massive planets at orbits at which liquid water could form on the surface. Without liquid water, there can be no life.



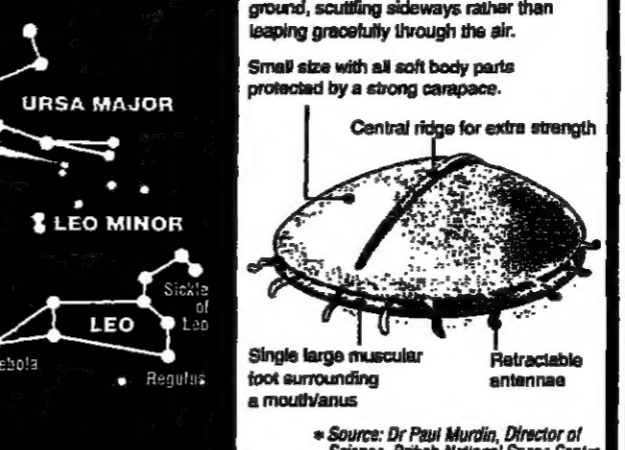
One of planets takes 116 days to orbit 70 Vir. It is nine times the mass of Jupiter. The other takes 1100 days to orbit 47 UMa, and is three times the mass of Jupiter.



Where they are?



How it might look



A brief history of time

EXTRATERRESTRIAL life has been bothering earthbound scientists for about 2,000 years. Lucretius, the Roman thinker, speculated in De Rerum Naturae that the seeds of life might be drifting about in the vastness of space, looking for somewhere to grow. This idea — known as Panspermia — was revived a century ago by the Swedish Nobel award-winning chemist Svante Arrhenius (who also predicted the greenhouse effect) and again a decade or two ago by Sir Fred Hoyle, the British astronomer.

Nobody has ever actually seen extraterrestrial life. But that hasn't stopped anyone imagining it. In the 18th century Voltaire had a go in the science fiction fable Micromegas. Thomas Jefferson, founding father and president of the United States, believed in life on other planets. Typically, the debate then was about whether such creatures had souls to be saved. In the 20th century, C. S. Lewis imagined beautiful and innocent life on Mars and Venus. The only planet in need of divine redemption was Earth.

In the late 19th century, things took a nasty turn. H. G. Wells invented malevolent aliens, and science fiction writers with the War of the Worlds. They were out to get us. This was usually because they had rendered their planet uninhabitable and needed fresh supplies. It made a great film plot. In The Invasion of the Body Snatchers the aliens turned up as pods. In the Man Who

Fell To Earth the alien turned up as David Bowie. The other great science fiction theme was a simple reverse. Mankind had rendered its planet uninhabitable and was looking for other Edens to spoil. Sometimes superior alien forces — as in the cold war allegory Childhood's End, by Arthur C. Clarke — would take over Earth for its own good. Sometimes — as in Dan Dare, Star Trek, Flash Gordon, Star Wars — space was simply full of warring life forms fighting with lasers or phasers. Attempts to imagine plausible alien civilisations usually end up with humanoid eyes for observing, mouths for talking, hands for wielding tools and legs for locomotion all seem vital for establishing a civilisation. But modern exobiologists recognise that carbon, hydrogen and oxygen need not be the only bases for life. There could be a silicon variety: if life was simply information which could renew itself, then how about a universe colonised by self-replicating computers? In October 1995, Father Piero Coda, writing in the newsletter of the Italian Bishop's Conference, cleared up one puzzling point. Aliens may have souls to be saved. "Having their failings, and created by God and in need of redemption, they too would have a part in the saving work of Jesus Christ," he said.

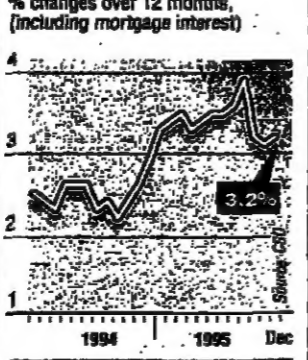
Clarke's loan rate cut 'to boost Tory fortunes'

Larry Elliott and Richard Thomas

THE intense political pressure on the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, to boost the Government's fortunes was underlined yesterday when he brushed aside Bank of England misgivings and cut interest rates for the second successive month.

Alarmed by the recent weakness in growth, Mr Clarke instructed the Bank's governor, Eddie George, to trim the cost of borrowing by 0.25 percentage points to 6.25 per cent. The cut — announced early yesterday — delighted the City and industry but is unlikely to lead to cheaper home loans. Leading building societies said they had already taken account of a quarter-point cut when they reduced mortgage rates before Christmas.

Inflation rate



0.25 point fall, the Chancellor and the Governor shared a platform in a show of unity. Yesterday officials said minutes of their meeting would not be published for six weeks. Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrats' treasury spokesman, said: "This interest rate cut, coming on the same day that inflation is shown to have risen and is still well above the Government's target range, has clear political overtones. The haste... suggests that the Government is desperate to pump up the economy prior to the general election, and that it doubts the achievability of its own growth forecasts."

believes the underlying picture is favourable, with the latest data for prices at the factory gate showing subdued cost pressures.

He added that the economy was "continuing to grow but at a rate which is clearly below trend" and that the international climate had worsened recently, particularly in Europe.

Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, said the cut was "accompanied by yet another admission that the economy is growing more slowly than the Chancellor hoped just two months ago". The cut was insufficient without action to tackle job insecurity and long-term underinvestment. In the City, hopes that lower interest rates will produce stronger growth drove the FTSE 100 index of leading shares up 4.5 points to a new record of 3748.7. Ian Shepherdson, UK economist at HSBC Markets, said the decision would help hard-pressed manufacturers, but suspected that political priorities influenced the timing. Michael Saunders, at Salomon Brothers, said: "The speed with which rates have fallen raises the risk [that] Mr Clarke is gambling with the inflation target — and will make a series of further rate cuts — to hit his 3 per cent growth target."

Rebel leader eludes forces encircling hostage town

Continued from page 1

vice spokesman, General Alexander Mikhailov, had earlier given lurid accounts of how the Chechens had hung, shot and burned hostages.

The Turkish prime minister, Tansu Ciller, said the ship, being shadowed by two navy destroyers, had to be stopped before it reached the Bosphorus straits. The gunmen on board have threatened to blow up the ship. Their leader, Mohammed Tocijan, told Turkish television by telephone that he had lost confidence in negotiations. Hearing of the end of the fighting in Dagestan, he said his original demands for Russian forces to let the Chechen fighters there to go free were no longer valid. "There is nothing to ask of Russia any more," he said. "They have lost their mines, they are only looking for blood."

INQUIRY INTO LEGISLATION AGAINST TERRORISM.

The Government has announced that it is setting up an independent inquiry to look into the future need for counter terrorism legislation once peace has become established in Northern Ireland.

The inquiry will consider what legislation will be needed to deal with the longer term threat from all kinds of terrorism.

The inquiry is to be carried out by the Rt. Hon. Lord Lloyd of Berwick. He will be assisted by Sir Brian Kerr, a Northern Ireland High Court Judge, who will advise on Northern Ireland matters. Lord Lloyd will be consulting widely and he would like to receive comments and contributions from the public.

If you have any views relating to the law against terrorism which you would like Lord Lloyd to consider, please write to him at PO Box 9998, London SW1H 9ZB.

In three years as Channel 4's head of music, I did not expect to come across such a thick concentration of sad, ill-adjusted, egotistical, cruel, deluded, ruthless, two-faced Napoleons-in-waiting. And that is merely in the world of classical music. In the pop world there are just as many bastards but they are nowhere near as well educated.

Review cover story

Classroom methods give young Swiss a two-year lead in maths

Donald MacLeod on success with sums

TEN-YEAR-OLDS in England are up to two years behind their Swiss counterparts in mathematics, according to a report today urging schools to adopt continental textbooks and teaching methods.

Swiss children spend far more time mastering basic arithmetic — particularly mental arithmetic — than English pupils, found Helvia Bierhof, author of the study for the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

Calculators are virtually banned in both Swiss and German primary schools, which use similar methods, and pupils typically do six times as many exercises as English textbooks allow for on a topic before moving to the next.

Swiss methods are already being tried in the Labour-run London borough of Barking and Dagenham, which sent teachers to observe continental practice. Tests showed improvements across the ability range, said schools involved.

Britain's problems in finding enough school-leavers with the maths to cope with technical and vocational training can be traced to poor preparation in primary school, argues Ms Bierhof.

She highlights Swiss and German practices including:

- Mental arithmetic given precedence over written methods until age nine.
- "Dodges" children here are expected to pick up themselves are taught.
- More oral work given to the whole class before individual written exercises. Children encouraged to work with whole numbers not digits.
- Calculators are not used — teachers believe they may hold back mental calculation.
- Arithmetic forms 90 per cent of maths teaching, compared to around 50 per cent in England.
- Consolidation using oral and written exercises is worked on until children are able to use techniques with ease and speed.

Whereas schools in England use individualised work schemes in the framework of the national curriculum, Swiss and German teachers must by law use only approved textbooks detailing steps to be followed by the class.

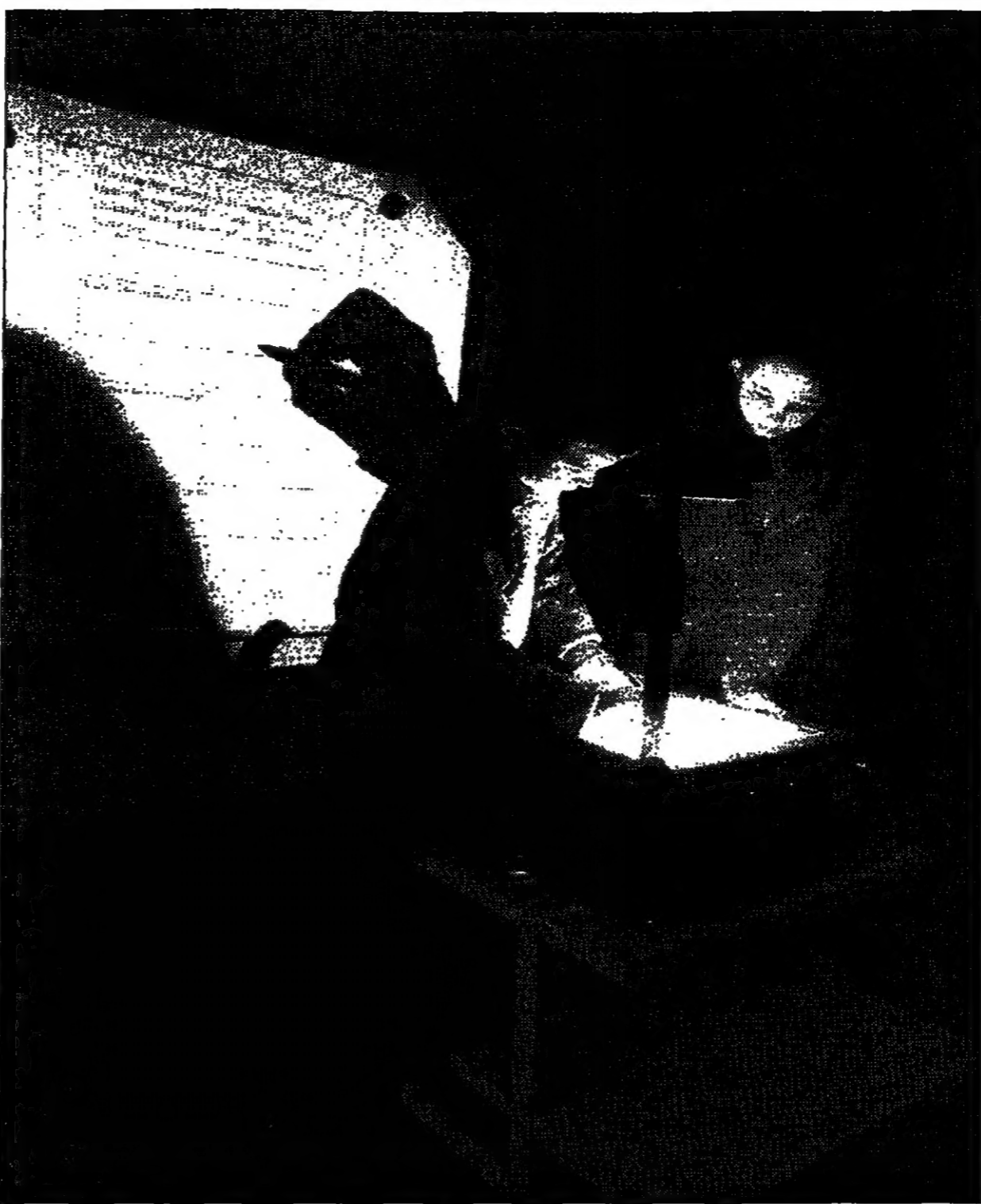
Pam Nuttall, head of Hunters Hall junior school in Dagenham, who visited Germany and has sent three staff to Switzerland to study their methods, believes they have been proved successful by tests although they cannot be imported wholesale.

Children showed more confidence with numbers and the best were doing "astounding" mental calculations. Far from drilling them by rote, the new teaching involved a lot of class discussion, with eight and nine-year-olds showing their own methods to the rest of the class on an overhead projector. Ms Nuttall now aims to extend such methods to her six-year-olds.

Roger Luxton, the borough's principal inspector, said the experiment, started 18 months ago, had reduced the "tail" of under-achievers in six primary schools without holding back the brightest children.

A century ago Matthew Arnold, the poet and school inspector, noted the same advantages in German maths teaching. "In the teaching of arithmetic I was particularly struck by the patience, the clinging to oral question and answer and the avoidance of hurry, the securing of the ground... If I had been taught these matters in the way I heard them taught I would have made progress."

Laying the Foundations of Arithmetic, Helvia Bierhof, ES, National Institute of Economic and Social Research; 0171 222 7665



Counting on themselves... Children at Hunters Hall primary school in Dagenham, east London, use a projector to pass on tips for solving arithmetical problems to classmates during a Swiss-style mathematics lesson. PHOTOGRAPH BY HAMILTON WEST

Dorrell asks GPs to take more work

Chris Millill Medical Correspondent

FAMILY doctors should take on an increased workload embracing elements of care provided by hospital doctors, particularly for accident and emergency patients and the mentally ill, Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, said yesterday.

Mr Dorrell, who met the British Medical Association's GP committee to set out his vision of the family doctor of the future, promised he was not trying to shift work on to general practice to save money from hospital budgets.

He said an expanded role for GPs would increase their professional satisfaction and improve care to patients. Extra pay and resources would be provided to reward GPs for the extra work by shifting money from hospital services.

The proposed changes come as part of the Government's commitment to improving primary care — treatment provided by GPs, practice nurses, health visitors and other staff outside hospitals.

Family doctors themselves are looking to renegotiate their contract of what services they provide as part of their desire to free themselves from night calls.

Mr Dorrell hoped that some agreement could be reached by the early summer, with changes possibly being implemented before a general election.

"I am aware that within the committee and the GPs they represent there will tend to be a feeling that this is unloading a new workload on GPs. Any politician has to realise that if there is going to be an extra workload, which there

needs to be, we must have discussions with the profession about how this is to be borne.

"The objective is a reasonable reward for a reasonable workload. This is an opportunity to improve the delivery of care to patients and to make the job more rewarding for the professionals themselves."

He wanted to remove many of the barriers between family doctor services and hospital care, providing a "hospital without walls" where consultants would visit GP surgeries and run outpatient sessions and GP would have more responsibility for treating hospital patients, under plans set out by consultants.

In particular he wanted GPs to take on more care for the mentally ill and for accident and emergency patients. "We want to deliver more services in a primary care setting and break down the barriers between hospital services and primary care. These are two big changes which have a long way further to go."

Nurses or other staff could take up some of the routine work of GPs, and paperwork could be cut, allowing them time for their new responsibilities.

The BMA said the development of primary care through taking on additional tasks should only take place with the consent of the profession, with the necessary transfer of resources, and after a proper evaluation of the case for change.

"General practice must not be seen as a cheap dumping ground, in which workload inexorably increases without proper funding and reward. Change should only take place in a planned and structured way, not in a haphazard and unconsidered manner."

'Dodgy' way to numeracy

MENTAL arithmetic "dodges" Swiss pupils are taught:

- Break down additions of two-digit numbers into smaller steps — eg 37 + 26 = 37 + 20 + 6.
- Increase one number to the nearest 10 and decrease the other by the same amount — eg 54 + 38 = 52 + 40.
- Short cuts — eg 26 + 59 = 25 + 60 - 1.
- Rearrange terms in more convenient order — eg 58 + 7 - 9 = 58 - 9 + 7.

Heads' plea over violent parents

John Carvel Education Editor

SCHOOLS should be able to expel a pupil whose parents use or threaten violence against staff, the National Association of Head Teachers said yesterday.

The union was appealing to the Government for stronger powers to tackle disorder after the murder of headmaster Philip Lawrence outside his school in Malda Vale, west London, last month.

General secretary David Hart said: "The time has come to say it is totally unreasonable for a school to have to carry on educating a pupil

when the parents have been guilty of extreme behaviour."

This should not be regarded as visiting the sins of the father on the child. But Margaret Morrissey, spokeswoman for the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations, said: "This is making children pay for the sins of their parents. If there is a problem with a parent assaulting a teacher, the police should be called in to deal with it."

Mr Hart said: "Schools are becoming more and more worried about the safety of staff in the wake of the increased level of physical attacks or threats". Last year 69 heads and deputy heads

were assaulted or subjected to violent abuse and 12 have claims outstanding before the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

The police were reluctant to press assault charges unless bodily harm was serious enough. Prosecutions by the school under the Local Government Act had little effect since the maximum punishment was a £50 fine, Mr Hart said.

The association also complained that heads could not refuse to admit pupils with serious criminal records.

"The problem is rapidly reaching nightmare proportions. The whole system by which local education au-

thorities provide for excluded pupils is breaking down.

"The authorities cannot cope and then try to force schools to admit pupils who are often 14 to 16-year-old thugs whose needs cannot be met by other mainstream schools."

The association asked Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, for powers to exclude pupils indefinitely.

A spokeswoman for the Department for Education and Employment declined to comment on the NAHT's proposals, which she said would be the subject of discussions between Mr Hart and Mrs Shephard next week.

'Naked prejudice' over Godiva prize

Michael Ellison

WHEN Coventry set about lining up a range of suitably grand events to mark the centenary of the motor car, it naturally sought to enlist the support of some of the city's most prominent citizens.

True, the 35-year-old woman who hijacked the early celebrations by removing her clothes during a church service on Wednesday was not quite what they had in mind.

But a local MP would surely not do anything to tarnish the glory of motor city?

John Butcher, MP for Coventry South-west, was invited to be a patron of the International Godiva Award, which will be given in June to "the woman that has done most to achieve social change". Nominations were invited from around the world for the title, intended to reflect "the spirit and essence of Coventry".

Mr Butcher replied on House of Commons newspaper: "I would be happy to become a patron of the international Godiva Award but only on the grounds that the award will not include a nominee who has anything to do with AIDS, multiculturalism, environmentalism, sexism or feminism."

"I only mention this because I am getting very bored with a fashion which is almost become a form of censorship which only considers people doing good works in these areas to receive awards or recommendation."

Yesterday the former Department of Trade and Indus-

try minister said: "The award is a good idea, but these fashionable 'isms' have had a good run over the last five years.

"If they were considering someone to say the health field, about 10 times as many people die of cancer as die of AIDS. There could be a woman who's done immense work for the hospice movement and never been recognised."

Victoria Charlton, organiser of the award, said: "His restrictions would rule out Mother Teresa and Princess Anne. I thought we were living in a multi-racial society. I thought we cared about the environment and I thought feminism had achieved something. Perhaps I was wrong."

"This is not what I would have expected from a Conservative MP. His attitude to the Godiva award is naked prejudice."



John Butcher: 'No greens, feminists or sexists'

Saudi dissident rejects Dominica as safe haven

David Pallister

MOHAMMED al-Mas'ari, the Saudi dissident threatened with deportation to Dominica because of his attacks on the Saudi royal family, revealed yesterday that he was considering applying for political asylum in a more developed country in the West.

At a press conference to launch a critique of the Saudi Arabian economy, he said he was confident of winning his judicial review of the decision to deport him. But he added: "I am sure there are other countries in the world with a more secure environment

than Dominica which can handle a mischief-maker. Dominica cannot protect me."

Professor Al-Mas'ari suggested Germany, Japan or a Commonwealth country such as Canada, as a possible haven.

But, he added, even if he was sent to the Caribbean, "we will be able to struggle from any place in the world."

In a calculated snub to British business — whose lucrative contracts with Saudi Arabia were said by government ministers to be the cause of his deportation order — he held the press conference in the heart of the City of London at the London Chamber of Commerce.

The report on the Saudi economy, by Latif Wahid, a Kurdish Iraqi lecturer at the London School of Oriental and African Studies, disputed international Monetary Fund optimism about the kingdom's balance of payments.

Mr Wahid, an oil specialist, said that instability in OPEC together with new finds in the North Sea could drive down the price of oil to \$11 a barrel from the current \$17. This, combined with Saudi inflation, continuing high military expenditure and more domestic borrowing could lead to stagnation and political unrest.

Popular acne drug 'causes liver failure and arthritis'

Chris Millill Medical Correspondent

AWIDELY used anti-acne drug can cause severe but potentially fatal side-effects, doctors warn today after two patients died and one needed a liver transplant.

Researchers claim that minocycline can cause a severe form of arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, and an immune response which can trigger a form of hepatitis.

Minocycline, an antibiotic available in tablet or capsule form, is Britain's most popular anti-acne

drug. In 1993 800,000 prescriptions were written at a cost of £23 million. Seven companies make the drug, which has been available since 1973 and costs around £30 a month.

The report by Paul Emery and colleagues at Leeds university in the British Medical Journal examines seven patients with serious adverse responses to the drug.

The researchers claim that the Committee on the Safety of Medicines has reports of 11 patients on the drug with the arthritis condition and 16 with hepatitis.

Doctors say two patients

have died while taking the drug, one from severe hepatitis and the other because the patient's bone marrow failed to produce sufficient blood cells. A third needed a liver transplant.

"They believe there may be a case for giving patients liver function tests, but this would make it prohibitively expensive."

A spokeswoman for the Department of Health said: "These reactions are included in product information and similar side-effects occur in other antibiotics of the same class. Minocycline is a useful antibiotic for the treatment of a variety of infections including acne."

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A growing life of crime

Mr Howard must know prison isn't the answer

EVERY silver lining ends in a black cloud - particularly with crime. Four months ago there was a full-blown press conference at the Home Office to mark the second successive annual fall in official recorded crime.

are much less likely to grow out of crime. The researchers suggest one reason why this trend has not been picked up by official statistics could be a tendency for males to resort to less risky and harder-to-detect crimes.

Girls still conform to old patterns. They grow out of crime. Although between 14 and 17 they are now nearly as likely as boys to be involved in offending, by their early 20s their rate of offending is five times lower than their juvenile rate.

Mr Howard's researchers agree. Commandably, there is a chapter at the end setting out what works. Nowhere is there anything as simplistic as prison. They concentrate on prevention rightly supporting programmes which might make Michael Howard choke: more support for families, more preparation for parenthood classes, improving parental supervision, reducing truancy and school exclusion, more school-parent contracts.

Calling Saddam Hussein's bluff

We don't know if his food-for-oil move is real so let's test him

WITH NO end in sight to the UN sanctions regime against Iraq, Baghdad says it is prepared to discuss the food-for-oil deal which has long been on offer from the UN as a way of relieving the malnutrition and ill-health caused by the trade embargo.

destruction of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. The money would be placed in a UN escrow fund. This proposal was first made in a 1992 Security Council resolution and was renewed last April on improved terms in resolution 986.

Don't knock the living daylight

The Butterfill bill is too important to be talked into oblivion

THIS morning MPs will debate whether Britain should have an extra hour of daylight during winter evenings at the expense of darker mornings. John Butterfill's Bill is important and has the potential to enrich the lives of many people.

cates that an extra hour of daylight would not only improve the quality of life, save energy, keep us in step with Europe and boost tourism, but would result in a significant net reduction in accidents (increases in the morning being more than offset by reductions at night).



Letters to the Editor

On life in the pen

ALTHOUGH the Home Office now seems prepared to modify the barbaric practice of keeping pregnant women shackled until they actually go into labour, these would seem to be no extension of this "mercy" to those who are otherwise needing to be in hospital.

Arthur, you didn't ask us

Economical with the service

ARTHUR SCARGILL is right when he points to the frustration of thousands of people disenfranchised by New Labour and by our present electoral system.

not respond to it in kind, however. Rather, we should learn from his reckless mistake and, where it gets off the ground, work with it on the issues of proportional representation, shorter working hours, decent pensions and democratic public ownership, on which Scargill is at his best.

It was distressing for an admirer of Ken Livingstone to read his comments (January 15) on those of us who look towards Arthur Scargill's Socialist Labour Party.

SHARE the apprehensions of Lord Bancroft (An ethos up for sale, December 30) on the implications of the Government's decision to privatise its Recruitment and Assessment Services (RAS).

By contrast, the Socialist Labour Party has been set up in two months between the proposal and the agreement on the constitution, by a small group of people without any effort to discuss or negotiate with sympathetic political or campaigning organisations, including many in the Labour Party.

I am not sure if he will be relieved or disappointed by what the book actually contains but hope that he will find something in its outline of Labour's plans for economic, social and political renewal with which he can agree.

YOUR assertion (Leader, January 15) that the left in the Labour Party will reassert itself if and when a Blair government embarks on policies which are strongly opposed within the unions, exhibits a poor grasp of the history of the party in government this century.

The working of the RAS needs to be managed with that consideration - not profit - primarily in mind. Maintaining what Lord Bancroft has described as the public-service ethos must be the first of the duties for which those responsible for the RAS are held accountable.

HAVE, over my six years and seven months inside, seen a large rise in the use of class A drugs in Stockton and Ashwell, and many of my friends being released with heroin habits.

RE SHEEP-counting numerical Letters, January 15 and 18: as a child I came across the first 10 in Monica Edwards's The Summer Of The Great Secret.

Rock 'n' poll

THAT it has taken until now for a campaign such as Rock the Vote (Rocking the young into vote awareness, January 15) to be launched in the UK shows how little is thought of by politicians and the media.

are essentially no policies directed at the young Richard Tate (19), 5 Bainton Road, Tipton, Nr Driffield, East Yorks YO25 9LF.

Letters to the Editor may be faxed on 0171 837 4530 or sent by post to 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER, and by e-mail to letters@guardian.co.uk. We may edit them for clarity and concision.

Just who is bypassing the truth at Newbury?

WHEN are the opponents of the Newbury bypass going to have the courage to admit that the road will bring huge environmental benefits to Newbury? No one denies that the road will damage the countryside to the west of the town. The issue is one of environmental balance.

It was very kind of Frank Dumbleton to come to the aid of East Isley in his attack on David Rendel MP (Letters, January 18), but he was not speaking for me or for most of East Isley's residents.

DAVID RENDEL MP is not the only Liberal Democrat whose actions contradict his party's claim to be environmentally friendly (Leader, January 17). Eastbourne's Lib Dem-dominated council chose to use tropical hardwood for its massive sea-defence scheme.

A Country Diary

NORTHUMBERLAND: Due to the warm weather we enjoyed last summer, bird colonies on the Farne Islands off our North-east coast enjoyed an exceptionally good breeding season. The head warden, John Walton, is busy during the weeks early in the new year interviewing candidates for the 1996 seasonal wardening jobs - five on the Inner Farne and four on the Brownsman.

arrived in December and before the savage snowstorms, which swept our coast a few weeks ago. Seals choose considerable variation in breeding sites and this leads to differences in the behaviour of calves. Sites include rocks, beaches of varying formation and extent, and vegetation-covered areas, usually at some distance from the sea.

سكان من الاجل

N T Rama Rao

Flawed star of India

NANDAMURI Taraka Rama Rao, or NTR as he was invariably known, was one of the most colourful of Indian politicians.

NTR, who has died after a heart attack, aged 72, starred in more than 300 films, often playing a member of the Hindu pantheon.

By good fortune Indira Gandhi's Congress Party, which used to regard Andhra Pradesh as one of its most secure bastions, was in deep trouble.

By good fortune Indira Gandhi's Congress Party, which used to regard Andhra Pradesh as one of its most secure bastions, was in deep trouble.

HE started to interfere in government and members of NTR's family objected, fearing that the newcomer was building up a claim to the patriarch's political inheritance.

Roger Suddards

Batting for Bradford

ROGER Suddards, who has died aged 52 after a stroke, set a remarkable example of public service in any field he thought might benefit his native city of Bradford.

David Hockney's lawyer for years, he was a charming and witty man with a light touch and knowledge of past and contemporary culture.

one of its 11 governing commissioners, and chair of the National Museum of Film Photography and Television.

Jackdaw



Rites and ritual

IT SEEMS that the coffins were ordered and the hangman and his three assistants flown in from the far north two days before the death sentences on Ken Saro-Wiwa and his fellow Ogoni activists...

large cell which was empty save for a long wooden bench. They hadn't yet been told about their impending executions.

been successfully tested on a dummy that very morning - for the last four days in fact. They decided to try it out on one of the others so they led Ken back to the cell and brought out John Kunjimen.

New era

All households whose front door is more than, say, 20 yards from the nearest public footpath to be required to have a mailbox next to the path.

banished from the Football League on grounds of boredom and sanity.

IT REALLY was an amazing time. For a brief moment, London was at the centre of the universe. But one took it for granted. One didn't go around feeling privileged, you just thought, "Hey, we deserve this" and the music!

tick tock

IT REALLY was an amazing time. For a brief moment, London was at the centre of the universe. But one took it for granted. One didn't go around feeling privileged, you just thought, "Hey, we deserve this" and the music!

tear band but they had amazing energy and rawness...

Times. It was ridiculous. I just said: "Where's your sense of humour? Lighten up!" ... I can only put [the film's] withdrawal in this country] down to [director] Kubrick's paranoia.

Pound weight

Q. AT A PARTY for a bet I swallowed a pound coin. It didn't seem to do any harm but it hasn't reappeared yet. I'm now worried that it could poison me or block my stomach. What can I do?

Dan Glaister

Barbara Jordan

The people's black voice

BARBARA Jordan, who has died of pneumonia, aged 59, was the first black to be elected to Congress from Texas since the Civil War and played an even more important role on the judiciary committee during the Watergate hearings.



Jordan... Nixon's accuser

"We, the People," she said, quoting the Constitution opening words. "It is a very eloquent beginning. But when that document was completed on the 17th of September, 1787, I was not included in that 'We, the People'."

It was a plain thought, plainly expressed, from a straightforward woman of great wisdom who had somehow put into words the ideals of the civil rights era.

Ironically, Barbara Jordan got into politics through the Texas political machine of another less than scrupulous politician, Lyndon Johnson, as a volunteer licking envelopes for his 1960 presidential bid.

In 1971, Johnson's influence was a covered seat on the judiciary committee. She aimed to increase black judges, and put more black students through law school.

In 1971, Johnson's influence was a covered seat on the judiciary committee. She aimed to increase black judges, and put more black students through law school.

She went to the all-black Texas Southern University, where she led the debating team to national honours, and stunned the college world by holding the famed Harvard debating team to a draw.

"All blacks are militant in their guts," she said. "But that militancy is expressed in different ways." Her way was to sign up with the white-run

She went to the all-black Texas Southern University, where she led the debating team to national honours, and stunned the college world by holding the famed Harvard debating team to a draw.

Birthdays

Julian Barnes, writer, 71; Nina Bayden, novelist, 71; Michael Crawford, actor, 54; Stefan Edberg, tennis player, 30; Phil Everly, rock singer, 57; Jackie Fleming, cartoonist, 41; Patricia Rodgerson, head of policy and planning, BBC, 55; Richard Lester, film director, 64; David Newbould, chairman, Council of the Missions to Seamen, 62; Nigel Nicolson, author and former MP, 78; Dolly Parton, country music singer, actress, 50; Sir Simon Rattle, conductor, 41; Mike Reid, actor, comedian, 58; Prof Andrew Samuels, psychoanalyst and writer, 47; Dennis Taylor, snooker player, 47.

Death Notices

MARTIN Walker, politician, born February 21, 1936, died January 17, 1995.

Acknowledgments

ELIZABETH Jane Mary, the family of the late Joan Mary Black, would like to express their sincere thanks to all family, friends, neighbours and colleagues for their caring and messages of sympathy.

In Memoriam

GURTRAS, Jpg. Died 19.11.1991. Remembered and loved.

Memorial Services

MEADE James Edward, a celebration of his life will be held on Saturday the 19th January at the Chapel of Trinity College Cambridge.



Suddards... discreet advice

encouragement and enterprise became head of a legal firm's Westminster branch by the age of 22. His speciality of planning law brought him early public service appointments as well as international

requests for advice. He became planning consultant for the United Nations and an adviser to Caribbean governments on urban development and planning law.

council. In 1993 he received an honorary doctorate. He was a former deputy Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire and was appointed CBE in 1987.

Birthdays

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tear band but they had amazing energy and rawness...

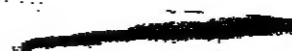
Times. It was ridiculous. I just said: "Where's your sense of humour? Lighten up!" ... I can only put [the film's] withdrawal in this country] down to [director] Kubrick's paranoia.

Pound weight

Q. AT A PARTY for a bet I swallowed a pound coin. It didn't seem to do any harm but it hasn't reappeared yet. I'm now worried that it could poison me or block my stomach. What can I do?

Dan Glaister

Men's Health



Pound sign... Men's Health

Power reg... Tomorrow; Law; Chan wins for ba; B

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Jackdaw

Jackdaw

people's voice



Friday January 19 1996

Power regulator hits back at US critic, page 12

Tomorrow: Body Shop shows its social credentials to the Guardian

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Leading City firm looks into £15m tycoon's copper dealings after complaints from Chilean government

Lawyers seek bribes proof

ALLEGATIONS that Winchester Commodities Group... the £15 million-a-year tycoon... involved in the \$200 million Codelco copper scandal...

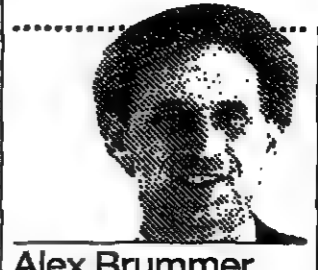
yesterday admitted that the SFA had investigated the company... But a spokesman said that "limited inquiries" were made in 1993...

\$200 million between 1990 and 1993 through speculative copper trading on the London Metal Exchange... The Chilean group has claimed its sacked chief...

Investigation by Dan Atkinson, Patrick Donovan, Chris Barrie and Paul Murphy

Notebook

Bank bides its time on inflation



Alex Brummer

The reluctance of the Bank of England, in the wake of Kenneth Clarke's decision to have a further quarter point of base rates...

It would be surprising if this did not form part of Mr George's script at the Treasury on Wednesday...

Both sides of town are in accord on certain basic economic points. The weakening of the European economies...

For the moment the Chancellor's luck is holding out as he seeks to underpin his tax cuts with the monetary easing...

Bringing about a feel-good factor is essential to survival. But if inflation prospects are put at risk...

The London stock market, fearing that an earnings famine could be on the way in 1996...

Thinking inside the Bank. It is a question of whether the Bank will think inside the Bank...

Chancellor wins kudos for base cut

Richard Thomas and Larry Elliott

BUSINESS leaders last night hailed the Chancellor's decision to cut base rates after the latest figures for high street spending...

Industry believes that with consumer spending accounting for around 60 per cent of gross domestic product...

Treasury shrugs off surprise rise in inflation

DEARER petrol and tobacco from the November Budget coupled with a jump in Christmas food...

Ruling puts question mark over Brent's £200m claim

SETTINGLEMENT of the £200 million claim by Brent Walker against GrandMetropolitan may be pushed into 1997...

Table with 4 columns: Country, Rate, Country, Rate. Includes Australia 1.98, France 7.38, Italy 2.370, Singapore 2.12, etc.

Unichem becomes biggest chemist

Outlook

Ian King

UNICHEM yesterday catapulted itself from third to first place among Britain's drug retailers with a £514 million agreed bid for Lloyds Chemists...

Mr Harris indicated yesterday that Unichem's existing retail brand, and the name all Lloyds branches will shortly trade under...

Hopes fade of last-minute deal to save Fokker from bankruptcy

David Gow

FEARS about the pending bankruptcy of Fokker intensified last night when Ben van Schaik...



Unichem chief Jeff Harris (left) with finance director Geoff Cooper

undercutting rivals, and which ensures that medicines are sold at roughly similar prices nationwide...

an expected - but unconfirmed - meeting between Daimler chairman Jürgen Schrempp...

quickly obtained an injunction against Asda, but the risk remains that the agreement...



commercial harm to Unichem. That leaves the Spectre of Boots, still Britain's biggest drug retailer by sales...

nearly 20 per cent on the Amsterdam bourse. That's hardly surprising as the company's shares fell...

Buoyant IBM ends the year on a billion-dollar note

Mark Tran in New York

IBM marked a further stage in its comeback from the financial abyss when it yesterday reported a surprisingly robust 42 per cent jump in fourth-quarter profits...

Table with 3 columns: Company, Profit/Loss, Change. Includes Apple Computer -\$69.0m, Computer Associates \$222.7m, Intel \$867.0m, etc.

Power attack 'offers false reading'



Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator (right), was in at the beginning of Britain's experiment with inflation-linked price caps. Despite widespread criticism for being too lenient on the industry and being forced to rewrite distribution price controls last year, he remains the system's most ardent defender

UK controls leave competition on grid

Yesterday US expert Gregory Palast accused weak British watchdogs of failure. Today electricity regulator STEPHEN LITTLECHILD defends the system as a world role model

IT IS surprising that the American Gregory Palast should find so much to criticise in the British electricity industry and its regulation compared to the situation in the US, when US regulators, companies and customers are actively trying to change their own systems to emulate key features of the new arrangements in Britain. It suggests that he has misunderstood what is happening in his own country just as he has failed to appreciate what is happening here in Britain.

It is not my intention to criticise US companies or their regulators. Many US electricity companies set high standards of efficiency and service to customers. In achieving their own significant improvements in efficiency and service to customers over the last few years, many of the British electricity companies have found it helpful to learn from some of the Americans and others.

The entry of US companies into the British electricity market is a further opportunity to transfer best practice in both directions.

Mr Palast places much weight on the claim that on average domestic customers in the US pay less for their electricity than domestic customers in this country.

However, there are large price variations within the US and many customers there pay more than customers in Britain do. There are other countries, such as New Zealand and South Africa, where domestic customers seem to pay less than in the US.

And Mr Palast does not mention the many other countries, including Japan, Germany, Belgium, France and Spain, where domestic customers pay more than in Britain.

requires such a formidable and costly bureaucracy? A major reason is that US rate-of-return regulation aims to reimburse companies for their operating costs and guarantees a return on their investment.

What this means in practice is that companies devote enormous resources to persuading regulators that they had to spend what they did spend, to inflating their asset bases, and perhaps indulging in some of the practices which Mr Palast decries.

Small wonder that "entire buildings filled with accountants" are needed to track what the utilities are doing. But judging from the prices that US electricity companies have paid to purchase companies in Britain and elsewhere, it does not seem that they have been deprived of profits.

In devising regulatory controls in Britain, we consciously looked at US experience and sought to improve on it. The RPI-X approach to price control which has been developed in Britain certainly takes into account reasonable operating costs and capital investment, and a need to provide a return to shareholders. But it provides a better deal for customers and better efficiency incentives for companies in two respects.

First, the RPI-X price control does not look to the past, it looks to the future. It does not ask what companies have spent, it asks how much less they would need to spend if they were more efficient.

Second, by not clawing back profits that are achieved under this price control, it gives companies the incentive to be even more efficient, to beat the targets implicit in the price control.

In the short term this may mean higher profits. These achieved reductions in costs are then passed on to customers when the price control is reset.

The new distribution price control for example, will cut distribution charges in England and Wales by one third over the period to the year 2000, most of it in the first two years.

The same method of price control has also yielded dramatic price reductions in other regulated utilities, notably telecommunications, gas and airports.

A further significant development in Britain, increasingly admired by many Americans and others, is the use of competition in generation and supply to reduce the burden of regulation and to provide increased protection for customers.

Admittedly, competition in generation in Britain is not perfect. But real progress has been made since the break up of the CEBG monopoly in 1990. Smaller competitors have entered, and new generators have entered the market. The aggregate market share of National Power and PowerGen has declined by a quarter. It will decline further when they have discharged

their undertakings to sell capacity to competitors.

Mr Palast's remark that no US generator has more than 2 per cent of the US market is misleading. It is no more relevant than to claim that the leading British generators have less than a 2 per cent share of the whole European market.

There is no way in which a customer on the East Coast can get access to a generator on the West Coast, or a generator in Chicago compete for the business of a customer in New Orleans. For all practical purposes, most US customers are faced with a monopoly in generation from their local company.

In 1996, all electricity customers in Britain will be able to choose their own electricity supplier. Competition in supply will be an extremely important protection for customers against suppliers with high profit margins, inefficient methods, poor quality of service or high priced generation contracts.

Mr Palast claims not to understand how the supply of electricity can be separated from ownership of the wires along which it is supplied. He is evidently unaware that half the electricity in Britain is already sold in a competitive market on precisely this basis.

TRANSMISSION and distribution companies have to make their wires available on the same terms to all suppliers, and these terms are regulated by price controls. Suppliers compete actively to purchase generation economically and sell it to some 50,000 medium and large-sized customers throughout the country.

As a result of competition, these customers have already benefited from significant reductions in prices, and improvements in other terms of sale, such as aggregate billing for all their sites in the country, which suits them better than previous billing arrangements.

No one is complacent about the practical difficulties of creating competitive markets

Re-wiring the new power industry

Welsh Water Bid for Swalec	£572m
CSW Bid for Seaboard	£1.1bn
Southern Company Bid for SWEB	£1.1bn
Scottish Power Bid for Manweb	£1.1bn
NWest Water Bid for Norweb	£1.82bn
PowerGen Bid for Midlands	£1.9bn
Hanson Bid for Eastern	£2.5bn
National Power Bid for Southern	£2.5bn

Regional electricity companies

When privatised: 1990
 Number of employees at privatisation: 82,480
 Number of employees in 1994/95: 63,000
 Proceeds from sell-off: £5.16 billion
 Turnover: £15.4 billion; pre-tax profits, £2,077 billion

Last year's controversy: Long-running wrangle with government over whether to give consumers any of the proceeds of the flotation of the National Grid. Takeover fever sparked huge gains for investors and senior industry managers. Electricity regulator forced to rewrite price caps on industry after allegations he had been too lenient.

MIDLAND

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

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Base Rate has been reduced by 0.25% to 6.25%

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The Listening Bank

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UN lauds multinationals' assistance to Third World

Richard Thomas on a new report calculated to rile the aid charities

MULTINATIONAL corporations are boosting the economies of Third World countries by injecting capital, opening export markets and raising efficiency, the United Nations declares today.

In a report likely to provoke immediate condemnation from voluntary aid agencies, the UN Trade and Development arm says that multinational firms will create 55 trillion (£3.3 trillion) of wealth outside their home countries during 1996, and will invest heavily in poorer nations.

The UN World Investment Report 1995, released today, argues that the global reach of companies such as Royal Dutch Shell, Exxon, IBM and General Motors is "a major factor in particular for countries struggling to catch up".

With cross-border capital flows expected to hit \$230 billion this year, up from

\$191 billion in 1991 — and a third of the total going to developing countries — the UN says that international investment by multinationals has overtaken trade as the driving force behind global economic integration.

On the eve of the report's official publication, Christian Aid accused the UN of falling to highlight the disadvantages, as well as benefits, of the increasing activity of first world companies in poorer countries.

Peter Madden, Christian Aid's head of policy, said: "Transnational corporations have more and more freedom to go where and do what they like, with fewer and fewer social obligations."

He called for internationally-agreed minimum social standards, to prevent "social dumping", whereby poor countries are forced to dilute or abolish legal conditions over working conditions in order to woo big business.

Cuts in the size of aid packages from the countries in the industrialised world were one reason poor nations were having to offer tax incentives, no-strike deals and minimal

News in brief

Maxwell jury holds retirement record

THE Maxwell trial entered the history books yesterday as the longest retirement by a jury. Meanwhile, any verdict was further delayed when a second juror was reported sick, and the remaining 10 were given another day off. Last night will have been the jurors' eleventh in a hotel — they were sent out to consider their verdicts on January 8.

The previous longest jury retirement in an Old Bailey trial was in April 1982, when jurors trying the race murder of Perry May, spent eight nights in a hotel, including the Easter weekend. The jury deliberation in the May case — more than 56 hours — remains the record.

Kevin and Ian Maxwell and financial adviser Larry Trachtenberg deny conspiring to defraud pension funds. Kevin Maxwell denies a second charge of conspiring with his late father Robert to defraud pension funds. — *Dan Atkinson*

Guinness in stout loss

MORE than £200 million was wiped off the stock market value of Guinness after it warned that profits from Japan would be lower than expected. Shares of the brewing and distilling group fell 3.5 per cent after the board said that further deterioration in the Japanese spirits market will cause 1996 profits from the region to fall £10 million short of expectations.

The board also warned that it would take an additional £30 million charge in 1996, boosting the total to \$24 million. The increase will include £10 million earmarked for cost reductions at United Distillers' in Europe and £20 million for the restructuring of its struggling brewing operations in Spain. — *Tony May*

Murdoch son eyes top job

LACHLAN MURDOCH, Rupert Murdoch's son, said yesterday that he hoped eventually to take control of his father's worldwide media empire. Lachlan, 34, has been tipped to replace his 64-year-old father at some point. He told the Sydney Morning Herald he thought he would make a good job of running News Corporation, although uncomfortable at media speculation on the subject.

Lachlan is already deputy chief executive of News Limited, News Corp's Australian arm, and deputy chairman of Star TV, News Corp's Asian satellite television service, as well as serving on an 11-member global strategy committee. — *Ian King*

DTI to study Caradon report

THE Stock Exchange said last night it had completed its investigation into dealings in Caradon shares ahead of the building materials company's share profits warning last September. It has passed a report to the Department of Trade & Industry. The investigation was launched after a sharp fall in Caradon's share price forced the company into publishing its results two days ahead of schedule.

It is understood the investigation has centred on the sale of 10 million Caradon shares by merchant bank Robert Fleming's fund management arm, and on the role of analysts Martin March and David Reed, both of whom are now believed to have left the bank. Last night, Robert Fleming refused to comment. — *Ian King*

Diamond talks extended

CRUCIAL talks between the Russian government and diamond giant De Beers have been extended for one more month, a joint communiqué announced yesterday. The Russians, second only to De Beers itself in terms of diamond production, account for a quarter of world output and are seeking improved terms from De Beers in return for letting the South African group continue to market all Russian gems. — *Dan Atkinson*

Speculators called to account

BRISTOL & West Building Society has raised the opening balance on three accounts to £2,500 in an attempt to deter speculative investors. The society's action follows moves earlier this week by Alliance & Leicester and Britannia to close membership accounts to new investors amid flotation rumours. — *Cliff Jones*

The CO-OPERATIVE BANK

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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including "The Guardian", "Tennis", "Ange Beck from", and "Results".

سكوات الاربيل

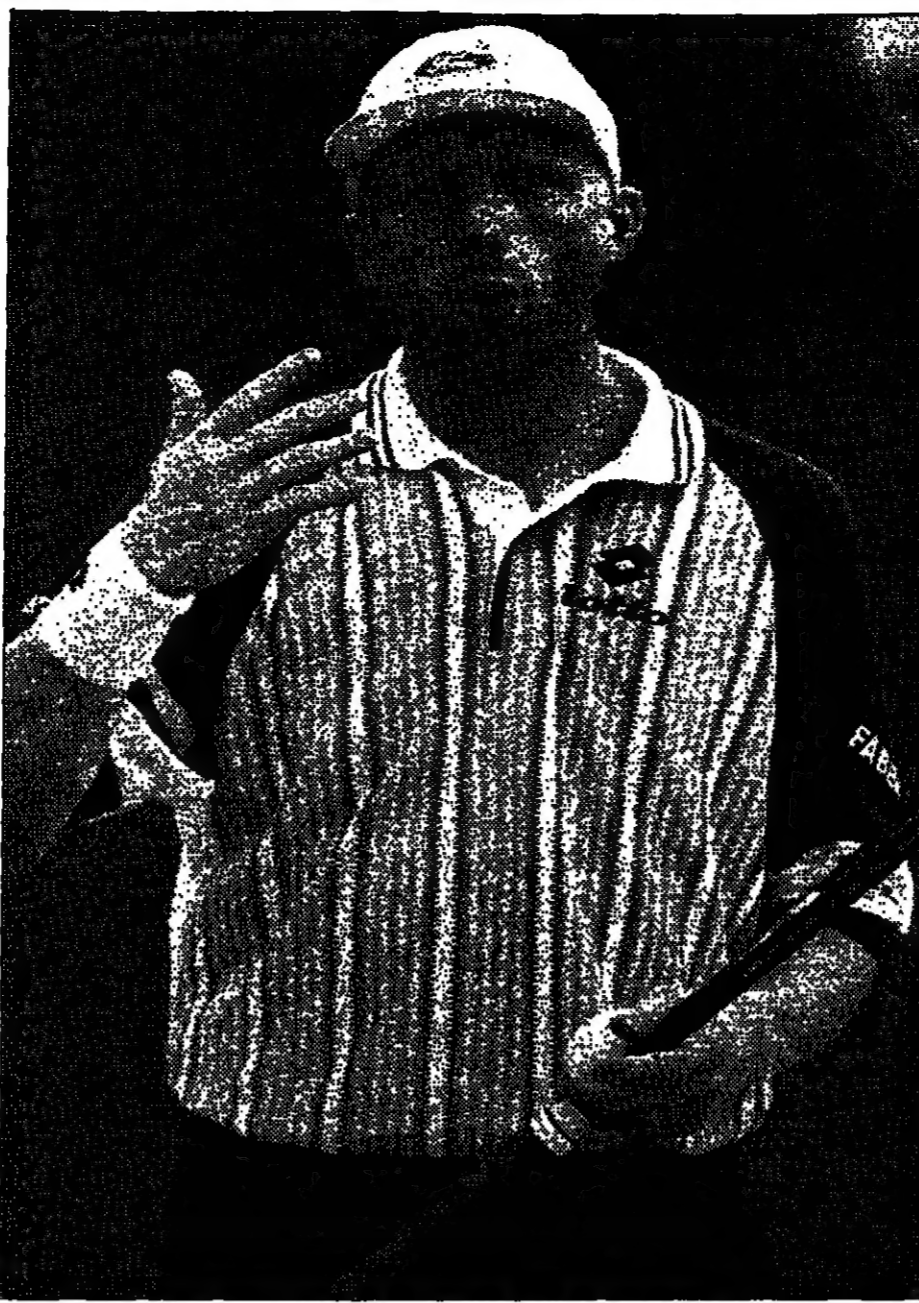
Tennis

Anger brings Becker back from brink

David Irvine in Melbourne

IT WAS a tribute to the German's never-say-die attitude, none the less, that this was the ninth time in his career that he had fought back from a two-set deficit to win. ... Anger brings Becker back from brink

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Love game... Becker blows a kiss to Swedish fans who insulted him

set and was made to work hard by an inventive and eager opponent in Michael Joyce, but finally saw the 20-year-old's brave challenge with his 20th ace.

Boetsch was unable to cope with the sustained attacking game of Mali'vai Washington, to whom he lost 6-4, 6-3, 6-1, but the day's most impressive winner was the young Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who routed Spain's Arantxa Parraza-Columbina 6-1, 6-2, 6-3.

Although Date saved two match points she seemed taken back when she was given a time violation on a third and she hit a backhand wild.

Racing

Alliance stands up to scrutiny

Graham Rock on the Cheltenham chase which is considered too tough for novices

THE Sun Alliance Chase, the championship race for staying novices, has gained a reputation for being a graveyard of talent. ... Alliance stands up to scrutiny

Sun Alliance took over the sponsorship 10 years later. Two of the first three winners, Buona Notte and Different Class, were both out of the top drawer, as were Herring and Spanish Steps in '88 and '89.

home A Kinsman in '84. Rhyme 'N' Reason unseated behind Antarctic Bay in 1985 and Royal Athlete fell in Garrison Savannah's year, while Barton Bank was pulled up behind Young Hustler in 1993 and One Man hurt his back when ninth to Monsieur Le Cure two years ago.

Kempton card with guide to the form

Table of horse racing results and form guides for Kempton Park, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Catterick

Table of horse racing results and form guides for Catterick, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Southwell (A.W.)

Table of horse racing results and form guides for Southwell, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Results

Summary table of race results from various tracks, listing race numbers, names, and winners.

Vertical text on the left margin: 'If jury holds... Stout loss... son eyes top job... rdy Caradon report... talks extended... tors called to account... OPERATIVE BANK... SE RATE CHANGE... INTEREST RATE CHANGE'

Advertisement for RACELINE and KEMPTON, featuring contact information and promotional text.

Rugby Union

Pit-bull muzzled but not silent

Paul Weaver finds Brian Moore in a mellow mood as England's former hooker contemplates a life without Frenchmen to bait

BRIAN MOORE, retired Moore would not be lining up against them at the Parc des Princes tomorrow in the opening match of the Five Nations...

In Paris, Moore will be commenting for Radio Five Live, and said: "I will be feeling very odd before the kick-off, wondering where I would be changing and experiencing that bonding feeling that comes with looking at Jason Leonard and Jeff Probyn...

England need no French incentives

Robert Armstrong in Paris

BONUS systems may suit some squads in the Five Nations Championship now that rugby is professional, but Will Carling said yesterday that England would not need the incentive of a win bonus to give their best performance in tomorrow's opener against France...



The Dax bludgeon... Richard Dourthe provides the steel in France's new midfield pairing

Two centres in their element

Ian Borthwick on the young partnership France's fans call fire and water and who are unfazed by Carling and England

THERE is a most disturbing tendency in the new generation of French rugby players. They have, it appears, no respect for their elders, and if Thomas Castaignède is any indication, even less for established rituals on the field of play.

rather play alongside him than against him. Since their arrival in France against their infectious enthusiasm and youthful ebullience have rocked some of the older players out of their seats.

Gallagher gets the green light

JOHN GALLAGHER, the former All Blacks full-back who has returned to rugby union after a spell in league, is one of nine full internationals in a powerful Ireland A side who face Scotland A at Donnybrook this afternoon.

Sport in brief

Hockey John Shaw replaces Russell Garcia, who has stomach trouble, as Great Britain face India today in their first match of the Olympic qualifying tournament here.

Squash

Del Harris, the England No. 1, gained prompt consolation for failing to regain the British national title when he beat the new holder, Peter Nicol of Scotland, in four games in a national Super League match.

Motor Sport

France's former world rally champion Didier Auriol is to join this year's holder, Britain's Colin McRae, as 555 Subaru become a four-car team this season.

Snooker

Tony Drago of Malta, the world No. 14, beat Steve Davis for the first time in 10 attempts to win the Guangzhou Masters, writes Clive Everton.



Atlanta's tick may prove a cross

HARD on the heels of North Korea's entry this month for the Games in Atlanta—and the IOC's rejoicing at its first 100 per cent attendance of eligible nations (197) since the second world war—a blot has emerged on that perfect landscape.

Sixth column

HAD the Man of the Match votes been collected at the end of rugby league's Regal Trophy final the award would almost certainly have gone to Henry Paul.

Cricket

ROMANIA's most famous tennis player, now 49, is to run for Mayor of Bucharest under the slogan 'Ile Nastase — an honest person'.

Football

MAREK RING, who has had 888 goals in 150 matches in Cardiff, was already spending less time on the tiles. Now he is leaving Cardiff altogether to become West Hartlepool's player-coach.

Other

THE Bath Evening Chronicle attributed remarkable perception in its report on the second one-day international in South Africa: "I would have given the Man of the Match award to Hickey, said Atherton."

Clydesdale Bank BASE RATE Clydesdale Bank PLC announces that with effect from close of business on 18th January 1996 its Base Rate has been reduced from 6.5% to 6.25% per annum.

Cricket England tour to SA Live Commentary 0891 22 88 28 Match Reports 0891 22 88 29

